

News Release

Kansas Farm Service Agency

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CRP Emergency Haying Approved For Thirty-Eight Kansas Counties

Manhattan, Kansas, July 13, 2006---Bill R. Fuller, State Director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced today that emergency haying of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage has been approved for thirty-eight counties in Kansas.

"This authorization provides relief for many Kansas livestock producers who have suffered through severe drought conditions during the past 6 years," said Fuller. "The drought has depleted hay supplies and affected the growth of hay and pasture in parts of Kansas. Many livestock producers cannot maintain their current herds without implementation of CRP emergency haying or grazing."

Thirty-eight counties approved for emergency haying of CRP acreage are Cherokee, Cheyenne, Clark, Comanche, Decatur, Edwards, Ellis, Ellsworth, Finney, Ford, Gove, Graham, Grant, Gray, Greeley, Hamilton, Haskell, Hodgeman, Kearny, Lane, Lincoln, Logan, Meade, Morton, Ness, Osborne, Rawlins, Rush, Russell, Scott, Seward, Sherman, Stanton, Stevens, Thomas, Trego, Wichita and Wallace.

Emergency haying is allowed from July 16, 2006 through September 11, 2006. Participants must leave at least 50 percent of each field or contiguous fields unhayed for wildlife. Hay must be removed from the field within 30 days from end of the haying period.

Emergency grazing was previously approved for these counties, except Cherokee, until September 11, 2006. Participants shall leave at least 25 percent of each field or contiguous CRP fields ungrazed for wildlife, or graze not more than 75 percent of the stocking rate. All livestock must be removed by the end of this grazing period.

Emergency haying and grazing is not allowed on the same acreage.

CRP participants in approved counties shall contact the local FSA county office to request emergency haying or grazing on an individual contract basis. Participants will work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a forage management plan. If the CRP cover is destroyed, the practice must be re-established at their own expense to remain in compliance with the CRP contract. Participants must also accept a 25 percent reduction in the annual rental payment for the acres actually hayed or grazed.

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